

## Calendar of manuscripts in Vilatte Fonds, Episcopal Diocese of Fond du Lac

### Episcopate of John Henry Hobart Brown (1875-1888)

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JHHB = John Henry Hobart Brown (1831-1888)

CCG = Charles Chapman Grafton (1830-1912)

EH = Eduard Herzog (1841-1924)

JRV = Joseph René Vilatte (1854-1929)

Date	Author	Addressee	Subject
	Thomas, S. A.		A biography of JRV from birth until his arrival in Green Bay
9/18/84?	Brown, Henry L.	newspaper clipping, letter to editor	JRV's career as a Presbyterian minister in Green Bay
12/12/84	Lee, Alfred, presiding bishop	JRV	referring to JRV's application to enter Church to Bishop of Fond du Lac
12/15/84	JRV	JHHB	wishes to leave Presbyterian Church; has accepted principles of catholic reform
12/26/84	Osborne, Frank O. Christ Church, Green Bay	JHHB	reply to bishop's inquiry for data about JRV
n.d. c. Dec 1884	JRV	JHHB	thanks for bishop's letters
1/3/85	JRV	JHHB	his accordance with teachings of Anglican Church
1/7/85	JRV	JHHB	he prefers not to go to seminary, but to stay and minister to people
1/12/85	Miel, Rev. C., Philadelphia	JHHB	his opinion of JRV: favorable
1/23/85	Osborne, Frank O.	JHHB	coming to Fond du Lac to see bishop
1/28/85	JHHB	Flichtner, George F. Secretary of DFMS	wants stipend for work among Belgians
2/12/85	Flichtner, George F.	JHHB	Society will consider request for stipend; but doubtful

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2/4/85	Osborne, Frank O.	JHHB	state of French Presbyterian Church in Green Bay
2/16/85	R.C. Bishop of Montreal	Wood, Rev. Edmund, Montreal	reply to inquiry as to JRV's life as RC
2/18/85	Wood, Edmund	JHHB	forwarding above
2/20/85	JRV	JHHB	has left Presbyterian Church; Green Bay not good site for Old Catholic work
2/23/85	Osborne, Frank O	JHHB	altar has arrived; JRV to visit French towns to scout site for church
3/4/85	Osborne, Frank O	JHHB	JRV away on tour of French towns
n.d.	Osborne, Frank O	JHHB	telegram: JRV returned
3/7/85	JRV	JHHB	report of his tour to locate site for church
3/15/85	Osborne, Frank H	JHHB	JRV admitted to Holy Communion; JRV wants to spend few months in seminary
3/23/85	Osborne, Frank H	JHHB	more data received on JRV; rest of letter re altar for Christ Church
3/23/85	JRV	JHHB	thanks for letter of introduction to Nashotah
n.d. c. March 1885	Morell, E. et al.	JHHB	a petition from some members of JRV's Presbyterian congregation to buy church and send JRV back there
3/24/85	JHHB	Morell, E.	JRV being sent to seminary; will consider purchase of church
4/8/85	JRV	JHHB	needs money; wants to stay at Nashotah only three or four months; has heard from Père Hyacinthe Loysen
4/10/85	(a student at Nashotah)	?	JRV at home and popular with students
4/11/85	JRV	JHHB	has bishop received another petition from Green Bay?
4/14/85	Riley, T.W.	JHHB	Why not send JRV to Old Catholic Bishop of Berne for ordination?
4/17/85	JRV	JHHB	agrees with Nashotah faculty as to what is best for his people
4/18/85	Williams, John, bishop	JHHB	send JRV to Herzog for ordination
4/18/85	Doane, William Croswell	JHHB	re sending Vilatte to Herzog for ordination
4/22/85	Doane, William Croswell	JHHB	if Herzog will ordain JRV it will be a great thing

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4/28/85	Riley, T.W.	JHHB	arrangements for JRV going to Berne: credentials, etc.
4/29/85	Cole, Azel Dow	JHHB	recommends JRV, would agree to present him for ordination if necessary
4/29/85	JRV	JHHB	thanks for decision to send him to Berne; can stay only short time—expense
April 85	unsigned	EH	testimonial from Council of Advice, Diocese of Fond du Lac, for JRV
5/1/85	Riley, T.W.	JHHB	sends testimonial for JRV from faculty of Nashotah
5/1/85	Cole, A.D. et al	EH	testimonial for JRV
5/4/85	Riley, T.W.	JHHB	JRV plans to leave Thursday
5/5/85	JHHB	EH	recommendation and introduction for JRV for ordination
5/5/85	Dafter, William et al.		certificate from Standing Committee for JRV
5/8/85	William Croswell Doane	JHHB	Doane has written EH; if the plan succeeds will open great door
5/11/85	Riley, T.W.	JHHB	Riley's plans for leaving Nashotah; Rome can make no valid objection to JRV's going to Berne
5/11/85	Gillespie, George W., Bishop	JHHB	favorable to idea of sending JRV to Berne for ordination
5/12/85	Riley, T.W.	JHHB	postcard: giving JRV's Berne address
5/16/85	JRV	JHHB	from New York City: informs bishop he sails for Europe today
5/18/85	Gillespie, George W., Bishop	JHHB	agrees with Brown's course re Belgians; discusses two clergy
6/5/85	JRV	JHHB	today received minor orders; will return without seeing Père Hyacinthe
6/6/85	Charles R. Hale	JHHB	account of his trip to Russia, Holy Land, etc.; after question JRV Hale advises Herzog to ordain
7/10/85	JRV	JHHB	asks for money
7/15/85	JRV	JHHB	receipt for \$25 for the expenses in setting up mission at Little Sturgeon
7/17/85	Costelle, H. E. C.	JHHB	JRV's former congregation will remain Presbyterian
7/20/85	JRV	JHHB	describes his tour of French settlements; needs horse and carriage
7/28/85	JRV	JHHB	established work at Little Sturgeon; he needs money and church

			ornaments
8/3/85	JRV	JHHB	work is established at Little Sturgeon in his house; plans work in environs
8/4/85	JRV	JHHB	postcard: JRV plans to write with regard to a young man
8/5/85	JRV	JHHB	plans to open a school and build a church, to be called Bon Pasteur
8/6/85	JRV	JHHB	warns JHHB that candidates from Rome need two or three years seminar; re John Styles
8/17/85	JRV	JHHB	needs money
8/17/85	JRV	JHHB	it would be wise to send Styles to Nashotah; prefers Roman style chasubles; need holy oils at once
8/29/85	JHHB	Scarborough, John, Bishop of New Jersey	re Fr. Maturin SSJE and his opinion that Vilatte should go back to Rome; justifies Protestant Episcopal work among Belgians
8/31/85	JRV	JHHB	difficult to make older people understand, but young generation sympathizes; has asked aid of Bishop A. C. Coxe
9/7/85	JRV	JHHB	plans to open school next week; work is encouraging
9/14/85	JRV	JHHB	thanks for candlesticks; has received \$75 from Professor Riley and a letter from Père Hyacinthe
9/17/85	JRV	JHHB	asks for \$600 to aid the mission
9/28/85	JRV	JHHB	account of progress of the mission; has ordered prayer books from EH
10/4/85	JRV	JHHB	105 persons in the mission; will choose site for church and bless cemetery today
10/23/85	JRV	JHHB	horse has arrived; wants to send a boy to Racine; plans to build a clergy house at once
11/2/85	JRV	JHHB	land can be bought for \$200; will go to Bruxelles for mass where a chapel will be prepared for Old Catholic rites
11/3/85	Miel, Rev. C.	JHHB	Assistant Bishop of New York wants Miel to tell meeting of bishops in Philadelphia his views on Old Catholic work
11/5/85	JRV	JHHB	contract for land in name of Trustees of Diocese of Fond du Lac; thanks for aid
11/19/85	Costelle, H. E. C.	JHHB	gave JRV \$10 and harness for his horse

11/25/85	Talleien, Antoine		receipt for \$100 given by Trustees of Diocese of Fond du Lac for land deeded to them
11/25/85			receipt for \$2.00 paid by JRV for services in transferring deed to Trustees of Diocese of Fond du Lac
12/5/85	Gray, Racine College	JHHB	re young Pelletier, JRV's protégé, who has arrived at Racine and plans for him during holidays
12/7/85	JRV	JHHB	Pelletier is at Racine; will forward papers re land in a few weeks
12/12/85	JRV	JHHB	mission affairs prosperous; asks Brown to find place for Pelletier during holidays
12/21/85	JRV	JHHB	thanks JHHB for making arrangements for Pelletier; plans for Christmas services
12/26/85	JRV	JHHB	New Year's greetings
12/28/85	JRV	JHHB	asks JHHB to write letter of thanks to women in New York for vestments
1/23/85	JRV	JHHB	JRV is in Chicago; asks for letter of recommendation, stating that he is raising \$3,000
2/4/86	Gold, William J.	JHHB	if JRV's work succeeds, it will point way to work among the foreign born in large cities
2/9/86	JRV	JHHB	JRV now in New York on his fundraising trip; lists clergy who have received him
2/12/86	JRV	JHHB	he has raised \$342; hopes to double that sum in New York
2/21/86	JRV	JHHB	mentions plan for a church; has raised \$520
3/4/86	JRV	JHHB	has been invited to tell of his work to the priests of Boston
3/8/86	JRV	JHHB	has received little sympathy in Boston and \$87 in money
3/16/86	JRV	JHHB	Dr. Batterson received him sympathetically; has gift of \$100 from him
3/18/86	JRV	JHHB	has arrived in Baltimore; collections \$805
3/22/86	JRV	JHHB	believes it wise to return to Little Sturgeon; collections \$1000
3/30/86	James A. Bolles	CCG	Vilatte here; upset about his cold reception by Father Maturin in Philadelphia; told to go back to Rome
4/3/86	JRV	JHHB	asks for JHHB's copy of Swiss Old Catholics [?]
4/8/86	JRV	JHHB	will start construction as soon as possible; received books from

			French School in Philadelphia. Miel's?
4/10/86	J.S.B. Hodges	JHHB	JRV met Bishop Paret in Baltimore; Hodges sends \$30 for the work
4/18/86	JRV	JHHB	still needs \$300 or \$400; asks JHHB to apply to American Church Building Fund Commission
4/19/86	JRV	JHHB	needs money for the works
4/19/86	JRV	James H. Smith	receipt for \$60 for the construction of the Church of the Precious Blood
4/20/86	JRV	JHHB	needs money for the construction
n.d.	JRV	JHHB	situation critical; needs \$500 at once; wants it within eight days
5/2/86	JRV	JHHB	RC priests have read letter excommunicating JRV's members; the new church will be named Precious Blood
5/20/86	JRV	JHHB	clergy house finished; will start church as soon as possible.
5/29/86	JRV	JHHB	Muller needs three years in a seminary or monastery; needs money for work
6/1/86	JRV	JHHB	has received \$10 payable to JHB; asks him to send back the money
6/23/86	JRV	JHHB	Muller is working with zeal; lack of money has stopped work on the church; can't go on without \$400 or \$500
June 1886			newspaper clipping: account of laying of foundation stone of Church of the Precious Blood, Little Sturgeon
6/28/86	JRV	JHHB	Sisters of St. Mary are sending an altar; need \$400 or \$500 to finish church
7/27/86	JRV	JHHB	re ownership of the property; JRV plans to go collecting in the winter and to begin two new missions
7/31/86	Anton A. Muller	JHHB	on his return found church built; hopes to have clergy of diocese visit at time of diocesan convention in September
9/1/86	JRV	JHHB	cannot come to Green Bay for the convention; JRV awaits JHHB's visit
9/9/86	JHHB	JRV	JHHB criticizes statements in JRV's catechism; suggests date for JHHB's visit to him
9/14/86	JRV	JHHB	urgent that JHHB be there on Thursday at 8 a.m.
10/24/86	JRV	JHHB	JRV cannot go to General Convention; the Society in New York

			has given \$300
10/29/86	JRV	JHHB	asks JHHB to return a letter sent to JRV
11/10/86	members of S. Francis Parish, Red River	JRV	petition to JRV to have services and to act for them with JHHB
11/29/86	JRV	JHHB	suggests a minor seminary at Little Sturgeon; forwards a petition from Red River for JRV's services there
12/1/86	JRV	JHHB	acknowledges gift from Mrs. Batterson; wants English sermons at Christmas; asks JHHB to license them
12/16/86	JHHB	James Otis Sargent Huntington, OHC	JHHB has seen Huntington's letter to JRV in which JRV's work is called ingenuous; JHHB justifies the work
12/30/86	JRV	JHHB	asks JHHB's views on idea of a seminary; wants letters authorizing him to collect
1/10/87	JRV	JHHB	on collection tour; wants to place another boy in Racine, Henry Neville
1/15/87	JRV	JHHB	re a letter from JHHB to be published in <i>Living Church</i> and other Church papers
1/20/87	JRV	JHHB	asks for money for travelling expenses, since so far no cash given, only subscriptions
1/21/87	JRV	JHHB	Detroit: needs money to travel
1/25/87	JRV	JHHB	asks about the money he needs for travel
2/4/87	Charles R. Hale, Dean of Davenport	JHHB	sends \$10 for JRV; comments on attitude of Eastern churchmen at Chicago
2/10/87	JRV	JHHB	has had little success in New York collecting
2/10/87	Ernest B. deBeaumont	JHHB	concerning some letters to be
2/12/87	JRV	JHHB	suggests a yearly collection in Diocese of Fond du Lac for the work; he is a long way from goal of \$5000
2/15/87	JRV	JHHB	refusal of Racine to take the boy; proof of need of a college
2/21/87	JHHB	G. F. Schroeder, Trinity Lutheran Church, Oshkosh	re threat of Schroeder to expose life of Karl Oppen, who is to take German Mission in Green Bay

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3/5/87	JRV	JHHB	JHHB ought not think him ungrateful for suggesting an offering in Fond du Lac; withdraws suggestion
4/1/87	JRV	JHHB	JRV cannot come to Fond du Lac on date suggested; it is Corpus Christi
4/6/87	JRV	JHHB	Racine has taken young Neville
5/1/87	JRV	JHHB	sends newspaper re assistance promised if college located in Sturgeon Bay; college needed
n.d.			<i>Sturgeon Bay Independent</i> clipping: proposed Old Catholic College; JRV's letters of orders printed to quiet rumors that he is not ordained
n.d.			<i>Sturgeon Bay Advocate</i> clipping: to end rumors that JRV not ordained, his letters of orders printed
5/3/87	JRV	JHHB	DeBeaumont expected any day; another priest absolutely necessary
5/9/87	JRV	JHHB	asks for return of letter from Père Hyacinthe; did not know a certain lady was a donor
6/21/87	JRV	William Croswell Doane	asks for donation; a new missionary to come
6/21/87	Canon Albert DeBeaumont	E. DeBeaumont	reply to request for copy of letters of orders (RC); can be written by bishop of your present diocese
6/22/87	Ernest DeBeaumont	JHHB	has arrived; gives personal history; has asked his brother, an RC priest in Belgium, to get copy of letter of orders
7/9/87	JRV	JHHB	asks for JHHB to come for confirmation; text of grant of land at Sturgeon Bay for Old Catholic College
7/14/87	JRV	JHHB	DeBeaumont to start work in old school house in Sturgeon Bay; he will start with two or three students
7/26/87	JRV	JHHB	school house has been converted for use of Fr. DeBeaumont and family; land cost \$720
n.d.	JRV	JHHB	sends JHHB letter of Père Hyacinthe, asking JRV to go to France to help Old Catholic cause there
8/4/87	Chris. Leonhardt and wife	JHHB and JRV	extracts: text of deed; land to be held in trust for Old Catholic Church in U.S., etc.
8/4/87	Albert DeBeaumont	Ernest DeBeaumont	to get document certification ordination, you need letter from Ordinary of your diocese

8/5/87	JRV	JHHB	deed will be changed as suggested; has written building committee for \$3000
8/16/87	JRV	JHHB	sends reply of American Church Building Fund; Oser is at Little Sturgeon; plans to spend four months collecting
8/20/87	JRV	JHHB	sends JHHB copy of letter sent to M. Gally in England: describes Old Catholic work; it offers field of labor
8/20/87	JRV	JHHB	how many clergy will come with JHHB for confirmation?
8/22/87	Ernest DeBeaumont	JHHB	problem: has been asked to hold services in college, and to wait for building chapel may be too late
8/29/87	JRV	JHHB	introduces the Rev. Isidore Oser on way to Chicago to prepare for future German missions
9/18/87	JRV	JHHB	asks for M. Gally's address in England
9/19/87	Isidore Omer	JHHB	Oser plans to join JRV if they can agree on nature of the work; Oser wants independence of foreign bishops
9/20/87	Ernest DeBeaumont	JHHB	needs money; sends his brother's letter from Belgium re proof of ordination; work has started on college
9/22/87	A.A. Mueller	JHHB	JRV dislikes Muller's views re Protestant Episcopal Church; Muller offers himself for Protestant Episcopal work or Old Catholic work
9/27/87	JRV	JHHB	suggests that the priest who wants to join Old Catholic movement be sent to DeBeaumont as a student
10/3/87	JRV	JHHB	re Erastus Proth, now with DeBeaumont on trial; better for Mueller to come back to Nashotah
10/4/87	JRV	JHHB	asks JHHB to order Mueller to leave Little Sturgeon; he used Latin and Greek in the services; borrowed money
10/10/87	Erastus Proth	JHHB	has decided to join Old Catholics under JRV after seeing the work
10/17/87	JRV	JHHB	suggests giving parish at Little Sturgeon to Proth; if JHHB concurs, tenders his resignation of it
10/24/87	EH	JHHB	thanks for news of JRV's work; has had a visit from representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury
10/27/87	JRV	JHHB	outlook bad for college at Sturgeon Bay; suggests other sites
11/3/87	William Croswell	JHHB	since no money order office in Little Sturgeon, sends donation via

	Doane		JHHB
11/11/87	Isidore Oser	JHHB	asks if JRV is travelling; Oser has had no answer to two letters
11/14/87	JRV	JHHB	asks JHHB to use his influence in re matter contained on the enclosed card
11/25/87	Isidore Oser	JHHB	re his quarrel with JRV; will seek to establish German mission under Bishop McLaren
12/6/87	Oliver Sherman Prescott	JHHB	JRV went to Portland and obtained proof that DeBeaumont was RC priest there from 1877-1879
n.d.	JRV	JHHB	fragment: proof that DeBeaumont was listed in Catholic Directory of 1878 and 1879
n.d.	Richard R. Upjohn		certifying that he saw above proof of DeBeaumont's ministry in the Roman Catholic Church
1/3/88	JRV	JHHB	asks to return to Nashotah; collections only \$350; suggests Wisconsin not ripe, but maybe Haiti is
1/18/88	no signature	JHHB	Gorham manufacturing company stationery: re brasses for JHHB and for Little Sturgeon
1/19/88	Cortlandt Whitehead	JHHB	re a man Lutz on his way to Diocese of Fond du Lac: caution
1/23/88			Boston Herald newspaper clipping: account of JRV's work in Wisconsin; JRV will preach in Church of the Advent on January 29
2/1/88	JHHB	Nightingale, George C. Jr.	
2/2/88	JRV	JHHB	asks JHHB if he expects to abandon work at Sturgeon Bay; if so, what to be done with DeBeaumont and students?
2/6/88	S. Fournier	JHHB	after seeing <i>An Account of the Old Catholic Work in the Diocese of Fond du Lac</i> (Pewaukee, 1887), offers services, gives personal history
2/22/88	JRV	JHHN	willing that DeBeaumont and students go to Nashotah, list of conditions; JRV wants to open monastery at Sturgeon Bay
2/28/88	JRV	JHHB	even if DeBeaumont goes to Nashotah, why not a college at Cadle Home property?
3/2/88	JRV	JHHB	asks JHHB to pay \$50 to enclosed address or there will be trouble for JRV

3/24/88	Erastus Proth	JRV?	awaiting impatiently his return to Little Sturgeon
n.d.	JRV	JHHB	asks for interview this evening
4/3/88	Ernest DeBeaumont	JHHB	account of Easter at Little Sturgeon, where mission is success; agree that school should be at Nashotah
4/4/88	H.W. Nelson, Jr.	JHHB	Nelson has some money for JRV's seminary; where should it be sent?
4/21/88	JRV	JHHB	JRV has resigned and proposes to go to Red River; asks JHHB to put a priest at Little Sturgeon
4/25/88	JRV		thanks for money

**John Henry Hobart Brown obiit May 2, 1888**